



Our Phelps Ancestors

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Phelps Context

The Phelps were of English Ancestry and were part of the great Migration to New England.

1. William Phelps b. 1593 Crewkerne, Somerset, England, m. Anne Dover Phelps d. 14 Jul 1672

1. William Phelps 1593-1672 Ann Dover 1610 – 1675

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Phelps-54>

William Phelps was born about 1593 in Crewkerne, Somerset, England. He is often confused with a William Phelps of Tewkesbury, England. He married Mary _____ in England sometime between 1615 and 1618, as buried in England in 1626.

Mary and William had four children, all baptized before 1625 at Crewkerne: William, Samuel, an unnamed infant who died young, and Nathaniel.[4][5]:62 Mary was buried at Crewkerne on August 13, 1626.[6]By this wife he had four children

- i. William Phelps bpt. at Crewkerne on September 9, 1618 m. (1) 1645 Isabel Wilson, (2) Sarah Pinney d. 1675
- ii. Samuel Phelps abt 1621 m. Sarah Griswold
- iii. Unknown Phelps abt 1623 m. William Wade 9 Jun 1658
- iv. Nathaniel Phelps abt 1625, m. Elizabeth Copley

Three months after his first wife's death, William married Ann Dover at Crewkerne, on November 14, 1626. He had six children by this second wife,

- i. Cornelius Phelps 1627-1628
- ii. Joseph Phelps abt 1628 m. (1) Hannah Newton, (2) Mary Salmon
- iii. Mary Phelps 1628-1628 (twin)
- iv. Sarah Phelps aft 1630 m. William Wade 9 Jun 1658
- 2 v. Timothy Phelps b. 1 Sep 1639 Windsor Hartford, Connecticut, m. Mary Griswold Phelps 1644–1715 (m. 1661)
- vi. Mary Phelps b. 2 Mar 1644 Windsor, Connecticut m. Thomas Barber

William Phelps, was one of the founders of both Dorchester, Boston Massachusetts and Windsor, Connecticut, and one of eight selected to lead the first democratic town government in the American colonies in 1637. He was foreman of the first grand jury in New England, served most of his life in early colonial government.

William Phelps was a Puritan Englishman who arrived in Dorchester, Massachusetts, (later annexed by the city of Boston) in 1630 aboard the ship Mary and John. The emigrants were organized by Rev. White on March 19, 1630, as the West Country Company at New Hospital, Plymouth, England, the day before leaving England. Although very few knew one another, they agreed to emigrate as a body to Massachusetts, where White had sent other groups over the prior six years. White has been called "the father of the Massachusetts Colony," despite remaining in England his entire life, because of his influence in establishing this settlement.[12] From their first arrival aboard the Mayflower in 1620, until 1629, only about 300 Puritans had survived in New England, scattered in small and isolated settlements. White preached sermons in the morning and afternoon; then, with his blessing, the group departed on March 20 for the New World aboard the Mary and John.

Arrival in the New World

The Mary and John made a good passage and arrived at Nantasket (later Hull) on May 30, 1630, without casualty. They quickly found pasture for their cattle at Mattapan. They made their settlement inland, about 6 miles (9.7 km) to the west on the edge of the bay, and named it Dorchester, honoring Reverend John White of Dorchester, England. Under the oversight of the Massachusetts Bay Colony headed by Governor John Winthrop, the village became the first permanent settlement in present-day Suffolk County. The arrival of 140 passengers in New England significantly increased the local population. The passengers are generally known as the Dorchester Company, referring to the place they selected for their settlement. They remained together as a distinct body and contemporary records identify most of them.

The immigrants founded the First Parish Church of Dorchester in 1631, which exists today as the Unitarian-Universalist church on Meeting House Hill, being the oldest religious organization in present-day Boston. The first church building was a simple log cabin with a thatched roof. The settlers held their first town meeting at the church, and they set their laws in open and frequent discussion.

Phelps served continually in varying governing capacities for many years. He was a member of the first General Court held in the colony in 1636, a member of the Court of Magistrates from 1637 to 1643, and was foreman of the first Grand Jury in 1643. Phelps name was spelled in the Massachusetts Colonial Records variously as Felps, Phelips and Phelps. He was made constable, assigned to serve on committees given authority to settle land and boundary disputes, and given other key responsibilities in administering the affairs of the new town, including serving on the General Court, or general meeting, at which individuals were tried for offenses including absence from church, forgery, fornication, and "bastardy."

Oct. 19th, 1630, William Phelps applied to be made freeman. Nov. 9th, 1630, he was one of a jury of twelve, empaneled for the trial of Walter Palmer, concerning the death of Austin Brotcher, found not guilty of

manslaughter. Sept. 27th, 1631, he was chosen constable of Dorchester. May 9th, 1632, He was one of a committee of sixteen, chosen by the colony to see about the raising of a public stock.

Phelps remained in Dorchester until 1635 when he and a large number of other families relocated to a new site inland which they named Windsor. In 1633, the Plymouth Trading Company established the first Connecticut settlement, a trading post at what would become Windsor, Connecticut, in territory the Dutch claimed and in which they maintained a fort and trading post, about seven miles downriver in what was later Hartford, Connecticut.

In 1635, Puritan and Congregationalist members of Reverends Warham's and Maverick's congregation, including William Phelps, John Mason, Roger Ludlow, Henry Wolcott, and others, all prominent settlers, were dissatisfied with the rate of Anglican reforms. They disagreed with Governor Winthrop's leadership, as he thought that the settlement should be run by only a few people. They believed they should have a voice in electing their leaders. They sought permission from the Massachusetts General Court to establish a new ecclesiastical society in the Connecticut Valley subject to their own rules and regulations. In October 1635, about 60 individuals, totaling 23 heads of households, undertook a two-week journey about 100 miles (160 km) to the east. They took a route known as the Old Connecticut Path, which took them through a region of swamps, rivers, and over small mountains. They sent most of their belongings and provisions via water and ship.

Before they were established in their new homes, winter arrived. The river quickly froze over in mid-November, and the ship carrying their provisions could not reach them. Their few supplies were soon exhausted, and they faced starvation. A few struggled back to Dorchester and the rest survived the winter with help from the original Plymouth settlers and the Native Americans. When spring arrived, the transplanted settlers moved to higher ground in the meadow north of the river and were finally able to receive their provisions.

They initially named their settlement Dorchester. Two years later in 1637, the colony's General Court changed the name of the settlement from Dorchester to Windsor believed to be named after the town of Windsor, England, on the River Thames. The new town was the first English settlement in the state. Under pressure from continued English settlement, the Dutch abandoned their post in 1654.

Windsor was supposed to be under the control of the Massachusetts Company. When Connecticut was set apart as a colony, the General Court of Massachusetts set the terms of the new colony's government in a commission granted by on March 3, 1636. It set out how differences were to be resolved, fines and imprisonment imposed, trading, planting, building, lots, military discipline, defense in war, and the people to be self-governed in their new town. William Phelps was one of eight commissioners appointed by the Colony of Massachusetts Bay to govern the Colony of Connecticut. All meetings were to meet in a legal and open manner. Eight men were given "full power and authority" to lead the new colony: "Roger Ludlowe, Esqr., William Pinchon, Esq., John Steele, William Swaine, Henry Smythe, William Phelps, William Westwood & Andrew Warde."

When the colonists occupied Windsor, Connecticut, they came into contact and later conflict with the Pequot who inhabited the area. In 1637, the Pequot killed two British slave raiders who had been capturing Native Americans for the slave trade. The colonists demanded that the Indians who killed the slavers be turned over for punishment. The Pequot refused. At a General Court held May 1, 1637 in Hartford, Connecticut, William Phelps presiding, it was ordered that there shall be an offensive war against the Pequot Indians, in which war he served. On May 26, 1637, about 90 English militia combined forces with Indians who were also enemies of the Pequot, the Narragansetts and Mohegan. They attacked the Pequot palisade or fort at Mystic. The militia, commanded by Captain John Mason, surrounded the palisaded village at dawn and set it to fire, striving to kill any who escaped the flames. By their own estimate they killed 600 to 700 individuals, captured seven, and saw seven escape. This was later referred to as the Mystic massacre. In the ensuing weeks the Pequot, already

decimated by smallpox, were virtually eliminated as a tribe. The remaining individuals were enslaved by neighboring enemy tribes, sold into slavery to other colonies, or enslaved by the white settlers themselves.

William Phelps was a member of the General Court for 23 years from 1636 to 1662. He was a member of Council in 1637. In 1641, he and later Governor Thomas Welles, of Hartford, were a committee on lying, "considered a grievous fault." That same year he served as Governor of the Windsor Colony. He was also one of the earliest Governor's Assistants and Representative from 1645 to 1657. Phelps participated in enacting laws which with others were later called the "Blue Laws of Connecticut".

The law of the day was specific regarding crimes and punishment, and Phelps was cited on numerous occasions for his responsibility in administering the law.

Lying in those days was deemed a peculiarly heinous offence. In 1641 the General Court stigmatized it as a fowl and gross sin, and Mr. Webster of Hartford and Mr. Phelps of Windsor are requested to consult with the elders of both churches, to prepare instructions against the next Court, for the punishment of the sin of lying....

Detail of map of central area of Windsor, Connecticut, circa 1640-1654, showing homes of William Phelps Sr., at top, after his move away from the river, and his son William Phelps Jr. immediately next to his. His home in Windsor was "a short distance north of the Mill River Valley", and after the Connecticut River flooded during the breaking up of ice in the spring of 1639, he moved his home further north, "about three-quarters of a mile northwest of Broad Street on the road to Poquonock, the place owned, in 1859, by Deacon Roger Phelps."

Phelps purchased land from the Indians on more than one occasion. In a deed dated March 31, 1665, Phelps recorded that he had purchased a parcel of land about 30 years previously from Sehat, a Paquanick sachem. He was unable to provide title and prove his previous payment, forcing him to buy the land again. He paid to Sehat's descendant "Nassahegan, an Indian sachem" and his kinsmen "four trucking coats"[notes 2] and wampum. He had previously paid "two coats and 40 shillings in wampum for a third coat, and six bushels of Indian corn, and fifteen shillings in wampum for the fourth coat; and fifteen shillings in wampum is at six a penny."

The Massachusetts Colonial Records contain a report from February 1666, which reported that "whereas there are several men that have land within the limits of it (the purchase aforesaid) both meadow and up-land, besides Mr. Phelps and his sons, it was therefore concluded that each man according to his proportion of land, capable of plowing or mowing, shall pay 12 pence per acre to Mr. Phelps; and each man paying to Mr. Phelps should afterward have a clear title to their several shares of land." Historian Henry Reed Stiles noted, "In these early days the title of Mister or Mr. was only given to elderly persons of distinction, while all military titles were always used. William Phelps received this distinguished title of Mr."[27]

Death and burial

Phelps died at age 78 on July 14, 1672, and was buried the next day. His wife died three years later on November 27, 1675. A Settlement Deed for his son Timothy's marriage to Mary, daughter of Edward Griswold, another pioneer founder of Windsor, was dated April 22, 1660. Phelps' last will and testament was entered on the Windsor, Connecticut register, July 26, 1672, and signed by Matthew Grant, Register.[27]

William Phelps, had been a member of Rev. John Warham's church relieved of his ministerial duties in 1927 because of his "strong Puritan's leanings". Phelps joined a group was organized by Reverent John White, Vicar of Dorchester, England on March 19 1630 as the West Country Company at New Hospital , Plymouth, England..

The Puritans were reformers but did not necessarily fight for religious freedoms for others. They disrespected all other faiths, especially Quakers. In the early 1800 the Congregationalist split between the Trinitarian and

Unitarian. The Unitarians eventually dominated the 14 congregations, captured Harvard and the original Pilgrim Church in Plymouth. The Unitarian continued their evolution towards a more liberal organization and a church without creeds. The First Parish Church of Dorchester, the oldest religious organization in present day Boston, exists today as a Unitarian-Universalist Church on Meeting House Hill.

2. Timothy Phelps 1639 – 1719 Mary Griswold 1644-1715

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Phelps-53>

Captain Timothy, son of William Phelps and Ann Dover was born September 1, 1639 at Windsor, Hartford County, Connecticut. He married Mary Griswold 19 Mar 1661/62. He died Sep 1719 (aged 79–80) at Windsor, Hartford County, Connecticut. He was buried in the Palisado Cemetery Windsor, Hartford County, Connecticut.

They had the following children,

- i. Timothy Phelps II b. 1 Nov 1663 Windsor, Hartford, Connecticut, m. Martha Crow , 04 Nov 1686 d. 28 Sep 1768
- ii. Joseph Phelps 1666–1716 (Several Josephs followed)
- iii. William Phelps 1668–1733
- iv. Lieutenant Cornelius Phelps 1671–1741
- v. Mary Phelps 1673–1690
- vi. Lt Samuel Phelps 1674–1741
- vii. Capt. Nathaniel Phelps 1676–1746
- viii. Sarah Phelps Marshall 1679–1716
- ix. Abigail Phelps Filer 1682–1709
- x. Hannah Phelps 1684–1726
3. xi. Anne Phelps b. 2 Oct 1686, m. David Porter 03 Jan 1707 Windsor, Hartford, Connecticut d. 24 Jan 1767 Hebron Connecticut
- xii. Martha Phelps Holcomb 1688–

After his father died in 1672, he inherited the house and the lands purchased from the Indians by his father, subject to providing for his mother's needs until she passed away in 1689. He was made a freeman on 2 May 1664.

In May 1690, "Thos. Allen chosen and allowed Cap.t of Trained Band in Windsor, and Timothy Phelps, Lieut., and are to be commissioned accordingly".

The soldiers of Windsor chose Timothy Phelps as their Captain in May 1706. Sgt. Timothy Phelps went up to the Great Falls in Oct in 1706-7. The Gov. and Council ordered that he be paid 8 shillings more than Capt. Matthew Allen. In 1706, he served under Col. William Whiting, in Capt. Matthew's Allyn's Co. in the Queen Anne War. In 1709, he was appointed a Lieutenant by the General Court.

Capt. Matthew Allyn led a company from Windsor in a campaign against Quebec. Allyn wrote to his wife that Timothy and some other men were sick.

He died Bef. 28 Sep 1719 in Windsor, Hartford, Connecticut when his was proved:.

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Hartford Probate Records, Vol. 9, pg. p. 338  
Timothy Phelps's Last Will and Testament

Last Will and Testament of Mr. Timothy Phelps of Windsor, in the County of Hartford and Colony of Connecticut in New England. Dated 2 May 1717.

In the name of God, Amen:--

I, Timothy Phelps of Windsor, in the town, county and colony aforesaid in New England, being very aged, and yet through the mercy of God retaining a good measure of that understanding and memory that he hath been pleased to bestow upon me, do make and ordain this to be my last will and testament: First, I commit my soul to God in Jesus Christ my saviour and my body to the earth, to be decently entered. As for my estate Real and personal, my just Debts and funeral expenses being deducted and paid by my Ex", I will devise and bequeath as followeth.

Imprimis. I give, devise and bequeath all my estate whatsoever, Both Real and personal, To my three sons William, Cornelius, and Samuell to have and to hold and Improve the same in trust for the use of my wife during her natural life and after her decease my will is and I hereby do give and devise all my houseing and Lands with the appurtenances, To my sons Timothy Phelps, William Phelps, Cornelius Phelps, Samuel Phelps, Nathl. Phelps and the heirs of Joseph Phelps, in the Room of their father to be equally divided into Six Equal parts provided always; and it is my will that they pay and make up to their Sisters Sarah, Hannah, Ann and Martha, my daughters or to their heirs and to the heirs of my daughter Abigail deceased fourty eight pounds as money apiece and my will is that what they have already received as entered upon my book shall be reckoned as part of said sum and if my said sons and the heirs of my son Joseph shall pay their sisters and their heirs above mentioned in equal proportion except that the heirs of Joseph shall pay four pounds more then an equal proportion and my son Cornelius four pounds less then an equal proportion. And my will further is that my wife shall have the free disposal of all her wearing apparel at her decease and that my grandson Samuel Tiler shall have half of that bequeathed to the heirs of my Daughter Abigail if he liveth with me so long as I live or till he comes to the age of eighteen years and I do hereby nominate and appoint my loving wife Mary to be my executrix and my three sons William, Cornelius and Sam' to be my executors to this my last will and testament. In witness whereof that this is my last will and Testament I ye sd Timothy Phelps have hereto put my hand and seal this Second day of March Anno Domini One thousand Seven hundred sixteen or seventeen.

his  
Timothy X Phelps.  
mark and a seal.

The said Timothy Phelps signed, sealed & declared this to be his last will & Testament in presence of us.  
John Mansfield,  
Thomas Moore.

And whereas I being aged and my wife so and not knowing how long it may please God to continue my life and not knowing what debts and charge may Arise before I leave this world ivy will is that my sons and my daughters & their heirs shall pay their equal parts and shares of my debts and charges after my decease and my daughters Sarah Hannah, Ann & Martha & the heirs of Abigail shall have fourty six pounds apiece with what they have already have to be paid as money out of my estate after my decease by the charge as above mentioned I intend that if there be any extraordinary charge so that the improvement of my estate will not maintain me this addition of my will was made and published this second day of March, One thousand Seven hundred Sixteen or Seventeen.

his

Timothy X Phelps.  
mark and a seal.

Signed sealed and Declared to be his addition to his Will and Testament in presence of us.

John Mansfield  
Thomas Moore

These two witnesses appeared 28 September, 1719, and made oath that they saw Timothy Phelps sign and seal the will with the addition, before Matthew Allyn, Assistant:

Windsor September 28th 1719

Then came before me the subscribers hereunto Capt. Thomas Moore and John Mansfield both of Windsor and made solemn oath that they saw Timothy Phelps sign and seal the foregoing written both sides of the first half sheet of this paper & declared the same to be his last will and testament and that they set their hands thereunto as witnesses at the same time and also that they saw said Timothy Phelps sign and seal the writing on the other side of this half sheet paper and declare the same to be his addition to his will and testament and that they set their hands thereunto as witnesses at the same time and that according to their best observation he s Phelps was of sound mind and memory.

Matthew Allyn, Asst.

Court Record, Page 112--6 October, 1719:

Will exhibited and proven. William Phelps to be guardian to Samuel Fyler, son of Samuel Fyler, late of Hebron deceased, a minor about 10 years of age.

Page 118--19 January, 1719-20:

Order to dist. the estate according to the will, by Ebenezer Fitch, John Palmer and Abram Phelps.

### **3. Anna Phelps 1667 – 1767 David Porter 1683 - 1767**

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Phelps-52>

Anne Phelps was born October 2 1686. She married David Porter January 3, 1707 at Windsor, Hartford, Connecticut. She died on January 24, 1767 at Hebron Connecticut. She was buried in the Andover Road Cemetery in Hebron Connecticut.

They had eight children,

- i. David Porter b. 13 Sep 1708 m. Ruth Mack 22 Mar 1739 at Hebron, Tolland, Connecticut, d. 1761 at Hebron Tolland, Connecticut
- ii. Anna Porter 25 Sep 1710 m. Thomas Judd 11 May 1732 Waterbury, d. 1801 Somme, Picardie, France
4. iii. Jerusha Porter b. 15 Sep 1712 m. Thomas Perrin
- iv. John Porter b 18 Sep 1714 m. Sarah Mack 22 Jun 1738 at Hebron, Tolland, Connecticut, d. 3 Oct 1762 Hebron, Connecticut, USA
- v. Tabitha Porter b. 11 Nov 1716 Hebron, Tolland, Connecticut, m. William Lord d. 1786
- vi. Pelathiah Porter b. 30 May 1719 Hebron m. Sarah Allen
- vii. Increase Porter 18 Feb. 1722 Hebron m. Mary Niles
- viii. Lydia Porter b. 6 Nov 1724 Hebron m Simon Burroughs

## Phelps Research

The following that once were included in my trees have been removed to later research that concluded they were erroneously included.

5. Richard Phelps b. 1496 Nether Tyne, Checkly Strafford, England, m. Mary Tomes d. 1597 Mary Tomes d. 1579 Tewksbury, Gloucester.
6. James Phelps, b. 1520 Tewksbury, m. Joan Jul 1556, d. 10 May 1586 Tewksbury
7. William Phelps b. 4 Aug 1560 Tewksbury m. Dorothy 1585 d. 28 Sep 1611 Tewksbury.

## Sources

Anderson, Robert Charles, The Great Migration Begins, Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volume 3  
Pages 1444-1446

Three Hundred Colonial Ancestors and War Service, accessed at ancestry.com

Find a Grave for Timothy Phelps accessed from Ancestry.

## Websites

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Phelps\\_\(colonist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Phelps_(colonist))


<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Phelps-54> William Phelps

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Phelps-53> Timothy Phelps


<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Phelps-52> Anna Phelps




12th great grandfather

 **Richard Phelps**  
 b: 1497  
 Nether Tyne, Checkley, Strafford,  
 d: 1579  
 Tewkesbury, Gloucester, England


11th great grandfather

 **James Phelps**  
 b: 1520  
 Tewkesbury, Gloucester, England  
 d: 10 May 1586  
 Tewkesbury, Gloucester, England


10th great grandfather

 **William Phelps**  
 b: 04 Aug 1560  
 Tewkesbury, Gloucester, England  
 d: 28 Sep 1611  
 Tewkesbury, Gloucester, England


9th great grandfather

 **William Phelps**  
 b: 28 Feb 1599  
 Tewkesbury, Gloucester, England  
 d: 14 Jul 1672  
 Windsor, Hartford, CT

8th great grandfather

 **Timothy Phelps**  
 b: 01 Sep 1639  
 Windsor, Hartford, CT  
 d: Bef. 28 Sep 1719  
 Hebron, Tolland, Connecticut


7th great grandmother

 **Anna Phelps**  
 b: 02 Oct 1686  
 Windsor, Hartford, CT  
 d: 24 Jan 1767  
 Hebron, Tolland, CT

6th great grandmother

 **Jerusha Sarah Porter**  
 b: 15 Sep 1712  
 Windsor, Hartford, CT  
 d: 23 May 1754  
 Hebron, Tolland, CT

5th great grandfather

 **Thomas Perrin VII**  
 b: 01 Jan 1739  
 Hebron, Tolland, Connecticut, US  
 d: 10 Oct 1822  
 Granville, Washington, New York,

4th great grandfather

 **Andrew B Perrin**  
 b: 19 Jun 1766  
 Hebron, Tolland, Connecticut, US  
 d: 21 Mar 1859  
 Maynard, Grenville, Ontario

3rd great grandfather

 **Orrin Gould Perrin**  
 b: 16 Aug 1806  
 Maynard, Augusta, Grenville, Ont  
 d: 01 Mar 1888  
 Maynard, Augusta Township, Gre


2nd great grandmother

 **Elizabeth Jane Perrin**  
 b: 28 Sep 1840  
 Merrickville, Grenville County, On  
 d: 08 Apr 1915  
 Maynard, Grenville, Ontario, Can

Great grandmother

 **Abigail Almeda Spicer**  
 b: 13 Sep 1860  
 Prescott, Ontario, Canada  
 d: 10 Jul 1940  
 Merrickville, Ontario, Canada

Maternal grandfather

 **Edward Elbert Atkinson**  
 b: 26 Feb 1887  
 Merrickville, Merrickville-Wolford,  
 d: 14 Jan 1957  
 Vancouver, British Columbia

Mother

 **Grace Elizabeth Atkinson**  
 b: 11 Dec 1916  
 Waskada, Manitoba, Canada  
 d: 04 Jun 2008  
 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S

Self

<https://www.phelpsfamilyhistory.com/research/william/index.asp>

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 Author